

City of Sarnia

MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: July 26, 2019 RELEASE DATE: Immediate

FROM: Joe Boothe, Superintendent, Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Phragmites Eradication in Storm Water Management Facilities

As part of the City's plan to eradicate phragmites in the municipal storm water management facilities, closures are planned next week to assist with phragmites spraying.

During closures, the entire storm water facilities will be inaccessible to the public. The following closures are planned, weather permitting:

- Monday, July 29, 2019: the Suncor Nature Way storm water facility (1500 Modeland Road) will experience a full closure to the public from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 30, 2019: the Heritage Park storm water facility (1633 Heritage Park Drive), the Twin Lakes storm water facility (1303 Errol Road East), and 402 Business Park storm water facility (171 Business Park Drive) will experience a temporary closure for touch up spraying.

These areas have a high concentration of phragmites, an invasive perennial grass, which has been causing damage to storm water management facilities.

Members of the public are asked to keep out of these areas for their safety. Signage will be posted 24 hours in advance. A spotter will be on sight for protection of pedestrians who inadvertently enter the trail near the work zone.

Eradication involves spraying the affected areas with pesticide. Following eradication of the phragmites, a suitable seed mix will be applied to allow native species to return to the area and limit the opportunity for invasive species to re-invade. City Staff will consult with Lambton Wildlife Committee

and the Sarnia Environmental Advisory Committee to select an appropriate seed mix for the area.

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For further information, please contact: Joe Boothe, Superintendent, Environmental Services

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